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10/656,354	09/05/2003	Erik D.N. Monsen	F-715	7816

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PITNEY BOWES INC.
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SHELTON, CT 06484-3000

EXAMINER	
FU, HAO	

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
3693	

NOTIFICATION DATE	DELIVERY MODE
03/26/2010	ELECTRONIC

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

iptl@pb.com

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/656,354	MONSEN ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	HAO FU	3693	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE *3* MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *12 February 2010*.

2a)☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☐ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *1-11 and 23-34* is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *1-11 and 23-34* is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a)☐ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ .
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Remarks

In the remarks filed on 02/12/2010, the applicants argue that paragraph 0071 of Ferrier requires prepayment in the situation where recipient is not present. The applicants further argue that unlike the Ferrier invention, the present invention does not require an escrow mechanism being utilized. Examiner respectfully disagrees on both arguments.

First, paragraph 0071 of Ferrier does not teach that prepayment is required in the situation where recipient is not present. The reference discloses, "the gateway can hold credit details of the purchaser if the purchaser wishes to pay online and have the goods delivered to a alternate address, for example, if the purchaser wishes to have good delivered to a location where no one is available to receive the goods and pay for them" (emphasis added). Examiner interprets the phrase "hold credit details" as obtaining payment information that is authorized to use for payment of the item without prepaying for the item. According to Princeton University's definition, "hold" means secure and keep for possible future use or application. Moreover, the purpose of the Ferrier invention is to allow funds transfer upon delivery of the merchandise (see paragraph 0002). In line with the purpose of Ferrier invention, the word "hold" should not be misunderstood as prepay. Regarding to the reading "In this situation included in the transaction details would be a transaction value of zero, as on delivery no payment would be required to be paid", the prior art is referring that the recipient does not need to pay for the item upon delivery, because payment information is already held by the

gateway. This disclosure should not be misunderstood as requirement of prepayment. Therefore, Ferrier teaches keeping the obtained payment information that is authorized to use for payment of the item for future use (authorize the payment when item is delivered).

Second, escrow mechanism is only employed in the alternative embodiment of Ferrier disclosed in paragraph 0067. The embodiment disclosed in paragraph 0071 does not require an escrow mechanism. Furthermore, there is no claim language in the present claims to retrain the use of escrow mechanism. Therefore, this argument is moot.

Claim Rejection – USC 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claim 1, 4-11, 23, and 26-34 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ferrier (Pub. No.: US 2005/0177437), in view of Morimoto (Pub. No.: US 2002/0120475), and further in view of Turbeville et al. (Pub. No.: US 2003/0144871).

As per claim 1, Ferrier teaches a computer implemented method for authorizing payment upon delivery of an item to a destination comprising (see paragraph 0002 and 0048; also see paragraph 0064, Ferrier teaches a payment on delivery scheme, and it is commonly known that in such scheme, payment is authorized after buyer receives the

item at the final destination):

registering each one of a plurality of receiving parties with a transaction module in the computer (see paragraph 0021, 0022, 0053, 0056, and 0057; “purchaser” is receiving party, and “gateway” is transaction module);

registering each one of a plurality of sending parties with the transaction module in the computer (see paragraph 0021, 0022, 0053, 0056, and 0057; “purchaser” is receiving party, and “gateway” is transaction module);

generating a shipment tracking identifier for use with a shipping system (see paragraph 0022, and paragraph 0062; “transaction identification” or “transaction ID” is identifier, and “transaction identification” is created when order is made; also see 0071 and 0075, it is implied that the identifier has shipment tracking ability);

associating the shipment tracking identifier with a particular sending party, a particular receiving party using the computer (see paragraph 0071, “…a transaction ID, comprising a supplier identification number, purchaser identification number");

obtaining debit information that is authorized to use for payment of the item and associated with a selected account from the particular sending party (see paragraph 0071, especially “the gateway can hold credit details of the purchaser if the purchaser wishes to pay online and have the goods delivered to a alternate address, for example, if the purchaser wishes to have good delivered to a location where no one is available to receive the goods and pay for them” (emphasis added); Examiner interprets the phrase “hold credit details” as obtaining payment information that is authorized to use for payment of the item without prepaying for the item; even though paragraph 0071 teaches an embodiment which uses credit information instead of debit information, credit payment is interchangeable with debit payment as supported by paragraph 0064; also see paragraph 0074, the prior art teaches transfer the purchase price to supplier/sending party’s bank account, so the prior art suggests that the payment information for the item must be associated with an account of the sending party in order to transfer the payment);

storing data relating to the identifier, the debit information and the particular sending party in the transaction module in the computer (see paragraph 0071, 0072 and 0100; “transaction ID” is identifier, and “seller” is sending party; paragraph 0071 teaches holding the payment information, and thus suggests storing the debit information);

obtaining shipment tracking identifier data at a destination location from the shipping system indicating that the item has arrived at the destination (see paragraph 0064, especially “Here the courier enters the transaction ID, either manually or using a barcode scanner; this procedure is done upon purchaser’s receipt of goods, which suggests it is done at a destination location; also as discussed earlier, it is implied that

the transaction identifier has shipment tracking ability);

correlating the shipment tracking identifier data to the particular sending party and the item using the computer (see paragraph 0064, last two sentences, also as discussed earlier, it is implied that the transaction identifier has shipment tracking ability);

then, using the computer, obtaining the previously stored debit information and authorizing a debit associated with the item from a selected account associated with the particular receiving party to a selected account of the particular sending party (see paragraph 0049 and 0064; it is implied that the authorization of debit is associated with the item; since purchaser can pay for the good using Electronic Funds Transfer, it is implied that the debit is from a selected account associated with the particular receiving party to a selected account of the particular sending party; also see paragraph 0071, the prior art teaches holding the payment information; according to Princeton University's definition "hold" means secure and keep for possible future use or application; moreover, the purpose of the Ferrier invention is to allow funds transfer upon delivery of the merchandise; therefore, Ferrier implies keeping the obtained payment information that is authorized to use for payment of the item for future authorization upon delivery of item).

Ferrier implies the identifier has shipment tracking ability similar to the present invention. To support examiner's argument that an identifier possessing the shipping tracking ability is prior art to the present invention, additional evidence is given. Examiner notes, Ferrier does not explicitly teach associating a shipment tracking identifier with the item.

Morimoto teaches an identifier which has shipment tracking ability and associating such identifier with the item (see paragraph 0069 "a customer or shipping company may enter in a unique identifier that identifies the goods being shipped, and the database may respond by outputting the data file…during or after the shipping process the data file may be updated to match current conditions. For example, events such as arrival of the item at an intermediary destination, arrival at the final destination, damage to the item during shipment, and confirmation by the recipient of receiving the item may be conveyed to the central server, which may then update the database accordingly; also see paragraph 0014, which clearly indicates that the unique identifier is equivalent to a shipping tracking number).

Morimoto also suggests correlating the shipment tracking identifier data to the particular sending party and the item, and the receiving party (see paragraph 0060, the "unique item identification number", which is a shipment tracking number, is associated with all the relevant information inside the "data file").

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to modify the Ferrier reference with teaching from Morimoto to include that the

identifier has shipment tracking ability, and correlating the shipment tracking identifier data to the particular sending party and the item and the receiving party. One of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to combine the references in order to employ existing shipping technology to provide shipment tracking of the purchased item.

The combination of Ferrier and Morimoto still does not teach generating a shipping label for use in delivering the item including the shipment tracking identifier for use with a shipping system. However, the examiner asserts that this feature is old and well known in the art. This has been the standard practice in the shipping industry for more than a decade.

Turbeville teaches generating a shipping label for use in delivering the item including the shipment tracking identifier for use with a shipping system (see paragraph 0041, especially "every shipping label generated by the distributed user shipping system includes a unique package tracking number. As a package travels through the carrier system to its destination address, the package tracking number is scanned at various carrier stations and routing facilities and a carrier database is updated with information on the progress of the package"). This feature is well understood by one of the ordinary skill in the art, as evident by the fact that almost all the shipping carrier have adopted this feature.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to modify the combination of Ferrier and Morimoto with teaching from Turbeille to include generating a shipping label for use in delivering the item including the shipment tracking identifier for use with a shipping system. One of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to combine the references in order to provide package tracking for a plurality of parties involved in the shipment.

As per claim 4, Ferrier teaches notifying the receiving party that the debit has occurred (see paragraph 0073 and 0087 last sentence).

As per claim 5, Ferrier teaches notifying the sending party that the debit has occurred (see paragraph 0073 and 0087 last sentence).

For claim 6-8 and claim 28-30, the word "operated" is understood as "To exercise one of a collection of activities of a product or feature during the normal course of using its functionality" or simply use the transaction module, as defined in google. The reason for such interpretation is that in applicant's specification, the receiving party clearly does not run or control the transaction module. Both receiving party and sending party must register to use the transaction module implies that none of these party is the "operator" of the transaction module under the common definition.

As per claim 6, Ferrier teaches wherein the transaction module is operated by the receiving party (see paragraph 0015-0039; gateway is equivalent to transaction

modules; it is clear that the transaction module is used by the receiving party).

As per claim 7, Ferrier teaches wherein the transaction module is operated by the sending party (see paragraph 0015-0039; gateway is equivalent to transaction modules; it is clear that the transaction module is used by the sending party).

As per claim 8, Ferrier teaches wherein the transaction module is operated by a third party (see paragraph 0027, "where an entity operating a gateway enables said supplier to provide said purchaser with a payment option via said gateway"; gateway is equivalent to transaction modules; it is clear that the entity operating the transaction module is neither the sending party nor the receiving party, and thus is third party).

As per claim 9, Ferrier does not teach selecting a particular carrier from a plurality of carriers for transporting the item.

Morimoto teaches selecting a particular carrier from a plurality of carriers for transporting the item (see paragraph 0077).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to modify the reference to include the step of selecting a particular carrier from a plurality of carriers for transporting the item.

One of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to modify the reference in order to choose the shipping carrier that most fitting the criteria.

As per claim 10, Ferrier teaches receiving confirmation information from the particular receiving party outside of the shipping system, at the transaction module, confirming satisfactory delivery, prior to the authorization (see paragraph 0067 last sentence and 0090, delivery is “authenticated” or confirmed before payment is authorized; also see 0086, Ferrier discloses in the case of unsatisfactory delivery, receiving party can return unwanted good, which further suggests that delivery is confirmed prior to the payment authorization step; also see paragraph 0048, Ferrier teaches the purchaser contacts the gateway to authorize the release of payment for the items upon delivery; it is implied that the purchase or receiving party also indicates the satisfactory of delivery, because it only make sense for the purchase to authorize the payment if he/she is satisfied with the item and delivery; it is implied that if the purchaser is not happy about the shipment, he/she can just choose not to pay; please also consider COD or Cash On Delivery, which is an old and well known shipping & payment method; also see Fig. 5 and paragraph 0081, both show that purchaser authorize payment through gateway outside of the shipping system).

As per claim 11, herein the identifier is stored as a bar code representation and the obtaining step includes scanning the bar code (see paragraph 0064, especially “Here the courier enters the transaction ID, either manually or using a barcode scanner”; as discussed above, “transaction ID” is identifier, and prior art clearly suggests that identifier is stored as a bar code).

12-22 (canceled).

As per claim 23, Ferrier teaches an apparatus for authorizing payment upon delivery of an item to a destination comprising (see paragraph 0002 and 0048; also see paragraph 0064, Ferrier teaches a payment on delivery scheme, and it is commonly known that in such scheme, payment is authorized after buyer receives the item at the final destination):

means for registering each one of a plurality of receiving parties with a transaction module (see paragraph 0021, 0022, 0053, 0056, and 0057; "purchaser" is receiving party, and "gateway" is transaction module);

means for registering each one of a plurality of sending parties with the transaction module (see paragraph 0021, 0022, 0053, 0056, and 0057; "purchaser" is receiving party, and "gateway" is transaction module);

means for generating a shipment tracking identifier for use with a shipping system (see paragraph 0022, and paragraph 0062; "transaction identification" or "transaction ID" is identifier, and "transaction identification" is created when order is made; also see 0071 and 0075, it is implied that the identifier has shipment tracking ability);

means for associating the shipment tracking identifier with a particular sending party, a particular receiving party (see paragraph 0071, "…a transaction ID, comprising a supplier identification number, purchaser identification number");

means for obtaining debit information that is authorized to use for payment of the item and associated with a selected account from the particular sending party (see paragraph 0071, especially "the gateway can hold credit details of the purchaser if the purchaser wishes to pay online and have the goods delivered to a alternate address, for example, if the purchaser wishes to have good delivered to a location where no one is available to receive the goods and pay for them" (emphasis added); Examiner interprets the phrase "hold credit details" as obtaining payment information that is authorized to use for payment of the item without prepaying for the item; even though paragraph 0071 teaches an embodiment which uses credit information instead of debit information, credit payment is interchangeable with debit payment as supported by paragraph 0064; also see paragraph 0074, the prior art teaches transfer the purchase price to supplier/sending party's bank account, so the prior art suggests that the payment information for the item must be associated with an account of the sending party in order to transfer the payment);

means for storing data relating to the identifier, the debit information and the particular sending party in the transaction module in the computer (see paragraph 0071, 0072 and 0100; "transaction ID" is identifier, and "seller" is sending party; paragraph

0071 teaches holding the payment information, and thus suggests storing the debit information);

means for obtaining shipment tracking identifier data at a destination location from the shipping system indicating that the item has arrived at the destination (see paragraph 0064, especially "Here the courier enters the transaction ID, either manually or using a barcode scanner; this procedure is done upon purchaser's receipt of goods, which suggests it is done at a destination location; also as discussed earlier, it is implied that the transaction identifier has shipment tracking ability);

means for correlating the shipment tracking identifier data to the particular sending party and the item (see paragraph 0064, last two sentences, also as discussed earlier, it is implied that the transaction identifier has shipment tracking ability);

means for then obtaining the previously stored debit information and authorizing a debit associated with the item from a selected account associated with the particular receiving party to a selected account of the particular sending party (see paragraph 0049 and 0064; it is implied that the authorization of debit is associated with the item; since purchaser can pay for the good using Electronic Funds Transfer, it is implied that the debit is from a selected account associated with the particular receiving party to a selected account of the particular sending party; also see paragraph 0071, the prior art teaches holding the payment information; according to Princeton University's definition "hold" means secure and keep for possible future use or application; moreover, the purpose of the Ferrier invention is to allow funds transfer upon delivery of the merchandise; therefore, Ferrier implies keeping the obtained payment information that is authorized to use for payment of the item for future authorization upon delivery of item).

Ferrier implies the identifier has shipment tracking ability similar to the present invention. To support examiner's argument that an identifier possessing the shipping tracking ability is prior art to the present invention, additional evidence is given. Examiner notes, Ferrier does not explicitly teach associating a shipment tracking identifier with the item.

Morimoto teaches an identifier which has shipment tracking ability and associating such identifier with the item (see paragraph 0069 "a customer or shipping company may enter in a unique identifier that identifies the goods being shipped, and the database may respond by outputting the data file…during or after the shipping process the data file may be updated to match current conditions. For example, events such as arrival of the item at an intermediary destination, arrival at the final destination, damage to the item during shipment, and confirmation by the recipient of receiving the item may be conveyed to the central server, which may then update the database accordingly; also see paragraph 0014, which clearly indicates that the unique identifier is equivalent to a shipping tracking number).

Morimoto also suggests correlating the shipment tracking identifier data to the particular sending party and the item, and the receiving party (see paragraph 0060, the "unique item identification number", which is a shipment tracking number, is associated with all the relevant information inside the “data file”).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to modify the Ferrier reference with teaching from Morimoto to include that the identifier has shipment tracking ability, and correlating the shipment tracking identifier data to the particular sending party and the item and the receiving party. One of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to combine the references in order to employ existing shipping technology to provide shipment tracking of the purchased item.

The combination of Ferrier and Morimoto still does not teach generating a shipping label for use in delivering the item including the shipment tracking identifier for use with a shipping system. However, the examiner asserts that this feature is old and well known in the art. This has been the standard practice in the shipping industry for more than a decade.

Turbeville teaches generating a shipping label for use in delivering the item including the shipment tracking identifier for use with a shipping system (see paragraph 0041, especially "every shipping label generated by the distributed user shipping system includes a unique package tracking number. As a package travels through the carrier system to its destination address, the package tracking number is scanned at various carrier stations and routing facilities and a carrier database is updated with information on the progress of the package”). This feature is well understood by one of the ordinary skill in the art, as evident by the fact that almost all the shipping carrier have adopted this feature.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to modify the combination of Ferrier and Morimoto with teaching from Turbeille to include generating a shipping label for use in delivering the item including the shipment tracking identifier for use with a shipping system. One of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to combine the references in order to provide package tracking for a plurality of parties involved in the shipment.

As per claim 26, Ferrier teaches notifying the receiving party that the debit has occurred (see paragraph 0073 and 0087 last sentence).

As per claim 27, Ferrier teaches notifying the sending party that the debit has occurred (see paragraph 0073 and 0087 last sentence).

As per claim 28, Ferrier teaches wherein the transaction module is operated by the receiving party (see paragraph 0015-0039; gateway is equivalent to transaction

modules; it is clear that the transaction module is used by the receiving party).

As per claim 29, Ferrier teaches wherein the transaction module is operated by the sending party (see paragraph 0015-0039; gateway is equivalent to transaction modules; it is clear that the transaction module is used by the sending party).

As per claim 30, Ferrier teaches wherein the transaction module is operated by a third party (see paragraph 0027, "where an entity operating a gateway enables said supplier to provide said purchaser with a payment option via said gateway"; gateway is equivalent to transaction modules; it is clear that the entity operating the transaction module is neither the sending party nor the receiving party, and thus is third party).

As per claim 31, Ferrier does not teach selecting a particular carrier from a plurality of carriers for transporting the item.

Morimoto teaches selecting a particular carrier from a plurality of carriers for transporting the item (see paragraph 0077).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to modify the Ferrier reference with teaching from Morimoto to include the step of selecting a particular carrier from a plurality of carriers for transporting the item.

One of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to modify the reference in order to choose the shipping carrier that most fitting the criteria.

As per claim 32, Ferrier implies means for tracking the item during the transportation of the item from a first location to the destination location (see 0071 and 0075, it is implied that the identifier has shipment tracking ability). To support examiner's argument that an identifier possessing the shipping tracking ability is prior art to the present invention, additional evidence is given.

Morimoto teaches means for tracking the item during the transportation of the item from a first location to the destination location (see paragraph 0069).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to modify the Ferrier reference with teaching from Morimoto to include means for tracking the item during the transportation of the item from a first location to the destination location.

One of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to modify the reference in order to allow users to find out the shipping status of the item.

As per claim 33, herein the identifier is stored as a bar code representation and the obtaining step includes scanning the bar code (see paragraph 0064, especially "Here the courier enters the transaction ID, either manually or using a barcode scanner"; as discussed above, "transaction ID" is identifier, and prior art clearly suggests that identifier is stored as a bar code).

As per claim 34, means for receiving confirmation information from the particular receiving party outside of the shipping system confirming satisfactory delivery prior to

authorization (see paragraph 0067 last sentence and 0090, delivery is "authenticated" or confirmed before payment is authorized; also see 0086, Ferrier discloses in the case of unsatisfactory delivery, receiving party can return unwanted good, which further suggests that delivery is confirmed prior to the payment authorization step; also see paragraph 0048, Ferrier teaches the purchaser contacts the gateway to authorize the release of payment for the items upon delivery; it is implied that the purchase or receiving party also indicates the satisfactory of delivery, because it only make sense for the purchase to authorize the payment if he/she is satisfied with the item and delivery; it is implied that if the purchaser is not happy about the shipment, he/she can just choose not to pay; please also consider COD or Cash On Delivery, which is an old and well known shipping & payment method; also see Fig. 5 and paragraph 0081, both show that purchaser authorize payment through gateway outside of the shipping system).

Claim 2-3 and 24-25 are rejected under U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ferrier (Pub. No.: US 2005/0177437), in view of Morimoto (Pub. No.: US 2002/0120475) and Turbeville (Pub. No.: US 2003/0144871), and further in view of US Patent Number 7,080,044 to Cordery et al.

As per claim 2, Ferrier does not teach wherein the shipment tracking identifier is a postage indicia generated from a closed system postage meter.

Cordery teaches the identifier is a postage indicia generated from a closed system postage meter (see column 1, line 41-64; see column 2, line 48-58 teaches identifier are utilized by both open and closed system postage meter; see column 2, line 8-27 teaches the identifier is generated from a closed system postage meter; Cordery explicitly teaches both open and close system can generate a digital token which contain the postage value; digital token is interpreted as postage indicium, since they both indicate the postage value);

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to modify the Ferrier reference with teaching from Cordery to specify the identifier is a postage indicium generated from a closed system postage meter.

One of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to modify the reference in order to specify the equipments of the invention.

As per claim 3, Ferrier teaches wherein the shipment tracking identifier is a postage indicia generated from an open system postage meter.

Cordery teaches the identifier is a postage indicia generated from a closed system postage meter (see column 1, line 41-64; see column 2, line 48-58 teaches identifier are utilized by both open and closed system postage meter; see column 2, line

8-27 teaches the identifier is generated from a closed system postage meter; Cordery explicitly teaches both open and close system can generate a digital token which contain the postage value; digital token is interpreted as postage indicium, since they both indicate the postage value);

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to modify the Ferrier reference with teaching from Cordery to specify the identifier is a postage indicium generated from a closed system postage meter. One of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to modify the reference in order to specify the equipments of the invention.

As per claim 24, Ferrier does not teach wherein the shipment tracking identifier is a postage indicia generated from a closed system postage meter.

Cordery teaches the identifier is a postage indicia generated from a closed system postage meter (see column 1, line 41-64; see column 2, line 48-58 teaches identifier are utilized by both open and closed system postage meter; see column 2, line 8-27 teaches the identifier is generated from a closed system postage meter; Cordery explicitly teaches both open and close system can generate a digital token which contain the postage value; digital token is interpreted as postage indicium, since they both indicate the postage value);

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to modify the Ferrier reference with teaching from Cordery to specify the identifier is a postage indicium generated from a closed system postage meter.

One of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to modify the reference in order to specify the equipments of the invention.

As per claim 25, Ferrier teaches wherein the shipment tracking identifier is a postage indicia generated from an open system postage meter.

Cordery teaches the identifier is a postage indicia generated from a closed system postage meter (see column 1, line 41-64; see column 2, line 48-58 teaches identifier are utilized by both open and closed system postage meter; see column 2, line 8-27 teaches the identifier is generated from a closed system postage meter; Cordery explicitly teaches both open and close system can generate a digital token which contain the postage value; digital token is interpreted as postage indicium, since they both indicate the postage value);

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to modify the Ferrier reference with teaching from Cordery to specify the identifier is a postage indicium generated from a closed system postage meter.

One of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to modify the reference in order to specify the equipments of the invention.

Conclusion

THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to HAO FU whose telephone number is (571)270-3441. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri/Mon-Thurs 11:30am-8:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, JAMES KRAMER can be reached on (571) 272-6783. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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